

Listing of Claims:

Claim 97 (currently amended) An appliance door latch for retaining a striker member, the latch comprising:

a latch frame affixable to a portion of the appliance;

a carrier member held by the latch frame to move between first and second positions;

a spring biasing the carrier member toward the second position;

a gripping member supported ~~by~~ on the carrier member to move with the carrier member and rotate independently with respect to the carrier member about a rotational axis, the gripping member rotating to capture a portion of the striker member in a capture position when the striker member enters an opening formed in the gripping member and rotating to release the striker member in a release position when the striker member exits the opening;

a stop device cooperating with the gripping member to hold the carrier member in the first position with the spring in a high state of inner tension when the gripping member is in the release position and to release the carrier member to the second position with the spring in a lower state of inner tension when the gripping member rotates to the capture position, the stop device providing a contact portion for rolling contact with the gripping member;

wherein the stop device includes one or more ~~antifriction~~ rolling contact bearings to support the contact portion for rotation with respect to the latch frame.

Claim 98 (currently amended) ~~An appliance door latch as claimed in claim 1~~

An appliance door latch for retaining a striker member, the latch comprising;

a latch frame affixable to a portion of the appliance;

a carrier member held by the latch frame to move between first and second positions;

a spring biasing the carrier member toward the second position;

a gripping member supported on the carrier member to move with the carrier member and rotate independently with respect to the carrier member about a rotational axis, the gripping member rotating to capture a portion of the striker member in a capture position when the striker member enters an opening formed in the gripping member and rotating to release the striker member in a release position when the striker member exits the opening;

a stop device cooperating with the gripping member to hold the carrier member in the first position with the spring in a high state of inner tension when the gripping member is in the release position and to release the carrier member to the second position with the spring in a lower state of inner tension when the gripping member rotates to the capture position, the stop device providing a contact portion for rolling contact with the gripping member;

wherein the stop device includes one or more rolling contact bearings to support the contact portion for rotation with respect to the latch frame; and

wherein the stop device includes a pin forming the contact portion at its outer circumferential surface and rotatably supported at its ends by ~~antifriction~~ rolling contact bearings.

Amendment Response
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Claim 99 (currently amended) An appliance door latch as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 97 wherein the stop device comprises an axle fixedly supported by the latch frame and having mounted thereon ~~an anti-friction~~ a rolling contact bearing rotatably supporting the contact person.

Claim 100 (currently amended) An appliance door latch as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 97 wherein the spring is a compression spring.

Claim 101 (cancelled).

Claim 102 (cancelled).